

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7405

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR TH

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF UN/THAI PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

REF: BANGKOK 26963

1. WE AGREE THAT UNFDAC EVALUATION TEAM'S REPORT ON THAI PROGRAM PINPOINTS PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE HAMPERED PROGRAM, INCLUDING DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM INADEQUATE MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS AND LACK OF EFFECTIVE BACKSTOPPING BASE WITHIN RTG. COMMENTS OF EVALUATION TEAM CONCERNING UN PROGRAM'S EFFECT ON OPIUM REDUCTION MAY BE VALID INSOFAR AS THEY RELATE TO UN VILLAGES THEMSELVES BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT NEXT TIME AROUND SOME CRITERION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO PERMIT EVALUATING TEAM PROGRAM'S EFFECT ON OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAILAND AS A WHOLE. TO THIS END IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF EVALUATION TEAM HAD MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE. SINCE UNFDAC'S ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND CONSTITUTE "PILOT PROJECT", IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL ON FUTURE OCCASION FOR SUCH TEAM TO COMMENT ON HOW THESE ACTIVITIES ARE BEING OR MIGHT BE MESHEDED WITH OTHER CURRENT OR POTENTIAL MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS SO THAT DEVELOPMENT

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EFFORT AS WHOLE IS ORIENTED TOWARD DRUG CONTROL.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM UNFDAC THAT STATUS OF THAI PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS: FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR FIVE-YEAR ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN UTILIZED IN THREE YEARS. UNFDAC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS AGREED CONTINUE SPENDING AT PREVIOUS LEVEL PENDING HIS REVIEW OF SITUATION IN LIGHT EVALUATION TEAM'S REPORT AND RTG'S REACTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN. TO THIS END HE HAS FORWARDED TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO RTG AND INTENDS INVITE RTG REPS TO COME GENEVA IN ADVANCE OF CND SESSION SCHEDULED BEGIN FEB 16 FOR DISCUSSIONS. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DECISION AS TO THAI PROGRAM'S CONTINUATION AND FUNDING LEVEL WILL BE GIVEN FOLLOWING THESE TALKS.

3. GIVEN LIMITED UNFDAC RESOURCES, WE BELIEVE TIME HAS COME FOR FUND'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BE GIVEN POLICY GUIDANCE AS TO DEFINITION PILOT INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS AND FUND'S RESPONSIBILITIES ONCE PILOT PROJECT HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT FARMERS CAN MAKE REASONABLE LIVING BY ENGAGING IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN OPIUM PRODUCTION. WE SUGGEST THAT WASH DEVELOP CRITERIA ASAP FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION OTHER DELEGATIONS AND WITH VIEW ESTABLISHING ANY CONSENSUS THIS MATTER.

4. TEXT OF EVALUATION TEAM'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND REPORT HAVE BEEN POUCHED. BRENNAN

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